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EXTENSION OF THE ACT TO PROHIBIT PROSTITUTION IN AND AROUND MILITARY AND NAVAL ESTABLISHMENTS

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEVENTY-NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

H. R. 2992

AN ACT EXTENDING THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT OF JULY 11, 1941 (PUBLIC LAW 163, SEVENTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS)

MAY 1, 1945

Printed for the use of the Committee on Military Affairs

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EXTENSION OF THE ACT TO PROHIBIT PROSTITUTION IN AND AROUND MILITARY AND NAVAL ESTABLISHMENTS

TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1945

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

The committee met at 10 a. m., Hon. Andrew J. May (chairman) presiding.

The Chairman. The committee will please be in order. We have met for the consideration of H. R. 2992, a bill which proposes to extend Public Law No. 163, Seventy-seventh Congress, which is as follows:

[H. R. 2992, 79th Cong., 1st sess.]

A BILL

To extend the provisions of the Act of July 11, 1941 (Public Law 163, Seventy-seventh Congress)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 163, Seventy-seventh Congress (518a, ch. 13, title 18, of the Criminal Code), is hereby amended by deleting "May 15, 1945" and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "May 15, 1946, or the date of the termination of hostilities in the present war, or on such earlier date as may be specified in a concurrent resolution of the two Houses of Congress for that purpose. As used in this section the term 'date of the termination of hostilities in the present war' means the date proclaimed by the President as the date of such termination or the date specified in a concurrent resolution of the two Houses of Congress as the date of such termination, whichever is the earlier."

This is a law which relates to the prohibition of illicit practice and the prevention of prostitution and the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases in and around the Army posts and the camps and cantonments.

The act has been in effect since July 11, 1941.

What the committee would like to know on the question of the extension of the act, first, is whether it should be extended for a fixed period of time as proposed in the pending bill, or whether it should be extended and made a permanent statute.

My reason for dealing with the question of whether it should be permanent or not is the fact that we may have—we will have undoubtedly a larger Army after peace is declared than we have been accustomed to having in the past.

Therefore we will have more posts and more places for the assembly of military personnel.

In addition to that it is proposed and there will likely be a system of military training authorized and carried on by the Government and by the War Department.

In that event there will probably be hundreds of thousands of young men between 18 and 21 years of age in those camps and cantonments all over the country.

So that rather then take the matter piecemeal the question I would like to have determined by the witnesses this morning is this:

To what extent, if any, has the Public Health Service had to increase its personnel; and to what extent, if any, has the cost of administering the law been increased.

Now, then, the only question that we want to consider this morning is to hear a few of the witnesses. We have about 8 or 10 listed. We want to have statements from only a few of them on account of the fact that we have another committee meeting that most of us have to attend at 10:30.

First of all, we want to know how the act has worked in the past as it has been administered.

Mr. Johnstone, will you come around and state your connection.

STATEMENT BY ALLEN JOHNSTONE, CHAIRMAN, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION

Mr. JOHNSTONE. Yes, sir. My name is Allen Johnstone.

My home is Newberry, S. C.

I am chairman of the committee on legislation of the American Social Hygiene Association.

Mr. Chairman, speaking of the point that you raise I would like in a brief way to say that it seems to me that there are three objectives with reference to this bill.

One is to extend the provisions of it during the period of the war; the second is to extend its provisions to cover the period of the war, and period of demobilization of the troops; and the third is to continue its provisions permanently for the protection of the armed personnel of the United States in peace as well as in war, particularly if there is a system of universal military training.

I should say that our association feels that this bill is an important piece of legislation as establishing a policy of the Government to protect its armed forces against the demoralization of brothels and prostitution, as well as to protect their health.

The bill has been invoked in two areas in the United States since it was enacted. One is in middle Tennessee where at the request of the civilian authorities, including the Governor of the State, the Secretary of War invoked this act around the military establishments there.

The other is near Fort Bragg, N. C.

And in those two instances its invoking served to clear up some very demoralizing and disease-breeding conditions.

The fact of the existence of the act, even though it has not been generally invoked, has had a very salutary effect throughout the United States and that has been a very large factor in protecting the health of the troops.

I should say, speaking for myself and I am sure for the balance of my associates in the association, we should like to see the Congress declare that it is the policy of the Government to protect its troops from these conditions in peace as well as in war, and I think that that can well be done without reflecting upon the State and local authorities in this respect.

Of course they have laws, State and local laws, against brothels.

They are not uniform in their application throughout the country. They are enforced sometimes and sometimes they are not.

And our feeling is that the Congress should say that it will make it unlawful for anyone to maintain a brothel within the effective distance of a place where troops are stationed and trained in any considerable numbers.

I do not think we should leave the protection of these boys on this important subject to the decision of local authorities. I think it is the business of the Congress to protect its troops.

Now, that is a short statement of our position, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. All right.

Mr. JOHNSTONE. And I should think we ought to hear from some of these gentlemen who have been intimately connected with the thing. I should like to ask first if we might not ask for a statement from Dr. Thomas Parran, Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes. Will you come around here, please, Doctor. We will be glad to have your statement.

STATEMENT OF DR. THOMAS PARRAN, SURGEON GENERAL, UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Dr. PARRAN. Mr. Chairman, I hope very much that the May Act will be extended.

I think it would be highly desirable for it to be extended beyond the period now provided in this joint resolution.

One of the most acute periods will be that of demobilization, and certainly, as Mr. Johnstone has suggested, it would be highly desirable for the act to be in effect during that period.

And then beyond that period, assuming we are to have a considerable strength in our armed forces, it would seem desirable that the act be made a part of the permanent law of the land.

This measure, Mr. Chairman, has had a very salutary effect in aiding the teamwork that has been developed between the Federal, State, and local authorities in dealing with this problem.

This matter of prostitution is a very complicated business.

It does no good just to padlock a few houses of prostitution and then allow vice to return as usual.

It requires highly skilled police work to deal with the problem; it requires teamwork between the police and the health department in connection with the act under consideration.

It requires very close teamwork between the Army, the Navy, and the Federal Security Agency.

In the Federal Security Agency there are two groups interested in the problem; the Social Protection Division, which is under Community War Services; and the Public Health Service.

This act has had an influence beyond what we can measure in terms of the number of places in which it has been invoked.

I have always believed that a more aggressive policy of invoking the act would have been preferable to the more limited use of the act which has been followed.

Nevertheless, the threat of invoking the act has had a salutary effect in a number of communities and, as Mr. Johnstone has indicated, it has been invoked in two areas.

I should like to make a very brief statement, Mr. Chairman, and that is I should like you to consider if you will the effect of failure of the Congress to renew the act.

Howsoever effective it may have been or whatever the shortcomings concerning it may have been, if this act is allowed to die now that this resolution is being considered by this committee, I am sure that such failure on the part of the Congress to extend the act would be considered by the brothel keepers, by those who exploit and profit by prostitution, to be an open invitation that the lid is off, and prostitution would flourish. We would have a great resurgence of commercialized prostitution if this act were allowed to terminate at this time; and because of that, I hope very much that it will be extended and, preferably, made permanent legislation.

The CHAIRMAN. Dr. Parran, just one question.

The possibility of enactment of universal training law for the training of half a million young men between 18 and 21 in the post-war period, do you think makes it more imperative that we have this character of legislation?

Dr. PARRAN. It does by all means, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. And for that reason and other reasons you think it ought to be made permanent rather than a limited statute?

Dr. PARRAN. I do.

The CHAIRMAN. Any other question?

Mr. BROOKS. Well, Doctor, if you make it permanent you would make no effort to enforce it, would you?

Dr. PARRAN. Mr. Chairman, the enforcement of the act in the future, whether or not it is invoked, I should think would depend upon the conditions as they actually exist around the large concentrations of troops.

Mr. BROOKS. Well, I for one would not uphold the statute and then make no effort to enforce it.

Perhaps for the war it may be all right to say for the salutary effect it is all right to let it stay on the books, but permanent legislation—do you mean you would recommend no effort to enforce it if it is permanent?

Dr. PARRAN. Oh, by no means.

From time to time during the past years I have urged a more aggressive policy of enforcement.

The War and Navy Departments, however, feel that it should be invoked only as a last resort.

There is room for honest difference of opinion as to whether or not in a given situation the local authorities have been given every opportunity to clean up.

I am sure that a tremendous good has resulted and continues to result because of the existence of this law and the knowledge on the part of those who engage in and profit by commercialized vice that the act may be invoked.

Mr. BROOKS. Well, let me ask you this, if it is permanent the enforcement still lies in the services, the Army and Navy. Would it not?

Or would it be in the Public Health Service?

Dr. PARRAN. The former.

The act comes into effect within any area as prescribed by the Secretary of War and/or the Secretary of Navy, as the case may be, if

prostitution exists and constitutes a threat to the health and welfare of the armed forces.

Mr. BROOKS. That would be enforceable under permanent statute by the Army and Navy?

Dr. PARRAN. The law-enforcement agency of the Government, the FBI would have the primary responsibility of enforcing the act in any area in which the Secretary of War or Navy declares the act to be in operation.

Mr. BROOKS. It would be by the FBI and not a special branch set up for the purpose?

Dr. PARRAN. That is correct.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, the act itself provides, does it not, Doctor, that if and when it is invoked there should be cooperative effort between the military authorities, so far as the military reservation goes, in cooperation with the civil authorities of the States and municipalities so far as their jurisdiction goes?

Dr. PARRAN. Correct.

In other words, the local law-enforcement officers can act under the authority of the Federal law; the FBI can act directly.

The CHAIRMAN. But there is a saving clause in it against unreasonable searches and seizures which provide that no arrests, searches, or seizures shall be made by either the Navy or Army or the Federal Security Agency until they have called on the State authorities to make the arrest.

Dr. PARRAN. That is my recollection of the terms.

The CHAIRMAN. Any further questions?

Mr. SPARKMAN. Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Sparkman.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Doctor, of course this committee reported this bill out, but I do not remember all of the provisions of it.

I remember when it first came out there was some discussion of the territorial area to be covered by the act in the event it should be invoked.

Do you recall just what the limitation was with reference to area?

Dr. PARRAN. Yes, sir, Mr. Sparkman.

The act makes it a Federal offense for any person to solicit for purposes of prostitution or to rent houses for this purpose, I quote:

> * * * within such reasonable distance of any military or naval camp, station, and so forth, as the Secretaries of War or Navy may determine to be needful to the efficiency, health, and welfare of the Army and/or Navy.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Do you not believe that that provision would make it a little difficult for people to accept in time of peace?

Just to define a reasonable area might easily be an area of 50 or a hundred miles, and would give the Federal Government jurisdiction over State offenses over rather large areas.

Dr. PARRAN. I would hope, Mr. Sparkman, that the people of the country would be as interested in maintaining the health of the young boys who will be in the service after the war as they are in maintaining their health in wartime.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Well, of course, that is a hope, yet we have to look at the realities.

I do know that there is a considerable let-down in peacetime as contrasted to conditions in wartime, and I am just wondering if such

an act would be acceptable where so much power and jurisdiction is given first, to the Secretary of War, and second, to the Federal Government, through its enforcement procedures.

Dr. PARRAN. I would hope that public sentiment in peacetime would support this act as permanent legislation. It is my belief that public sentiment would, barring one possibility, and that is unreasonable and arbitrary action on the part of the Secretary of War or Secretary of Navy.

If such unreasonable actions should be taken, then I am sure that public sentiment would make itself felt.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Of course I am for the act and I am rather sympathetic to your view of making it permanent legislation, but I am just wondering if it is now drawn in such a shape as to be acceptable as permanent legislation.

It seems to me we perhaps are giving the Secretary of War unusual powers to be exercised in time of peace.

Dr. PARRAN. It gives broad potential power.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Yes.

Dr. PARRAN. As I have indicated, that power even in wartime has been exercised in a very conservative way.

The CHAIRMAN. Only twice.

Dr. PARRAN. Only twice.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Elston?

Mr. ELSTON. Dr. Parran, who is going to determine what is the reasonable exercise of the power of the Secretary of War and Secretary of Navy?

Dr. PARRAN. I would assume the courts, Mr. Elston, would be the place for final determination.

Mr. ELSTON. Well, then, you would be constantly in the courts having the court determine whether or not some Federal official had exercised proper power and, since the law would give the Secretary of War wide discretionary power, of course they would be inclined to say they could not interfere with discretionary duty, and you would have the Secretary of War and Secretary of Navy exercising police powers sometimes over an entire city; and in addition to that you would need certainly a lot of military police and other police enforcement officials who would have superior jurisdiction to the regular State and local police officers.

You would have a conflict of jurisdiction, which in my judgment would be a very bad thing, because I still believe the States and localities are capable of enforcing their own laws.

Dr. PARRAN. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if Mr. Elston recalls that during the World War the situation he describes actually existed, that is, the Federal Government did exercise jurisdiction over prostitution in all of its forms within a radius, I think it was 10 miles, of any military installation.

In some instances that covered whole cities, all over the country.

In other words, the action which has been taken under this bill, under this act, during this war, action which has been taken by the Federal Government, has been very much less than was the case in World War I; and I would assume that if any future Secretary acted arbitrarily and unreasonably that this committee and the Congress would be the first to be aware of that fact and could repeal such a law or restrict such action.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Well now, the objection is we had better not make too many of these wartime laws permanent.

I think the act has worked very well during wartime because there has been an ample number of military police, and I think it is enforced better in wartime than it would be in peacetime.

It would probably require an increase in the Federal police set-up, Federal police forces, and would cost the taxpayer some money to enforce it.

It just seems a reflection to me on the ability of local police and State police to enforce their own laws if we have to make legislation of this kind permanent.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Andrews, a question?

Mr. ANDREWS. No.

The CHAIRMAN. Any other questions, gentlemen? Dr. Fenton?

Let me make a statement, please, first. Let me find out something.

How many witnesses are here to testify in support of this legislation? And will all of those who have written statements stand up please.

Well, if you have written statements I think we will have to let you file them and let them go into the record.

All right, Doctor.

Mr. FENTON. I was just wondering, Mr. Chairman, if Dr. Parran could tell us the incidence of venereal diseases at this time.

Dr. PARRAN. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if Dr. Fenton would direct that question to the representatives of the Army and Navy who are here as regards the armed forces.

I should be glad if you wish to testify concerning the information we have regarding the civil population.

The CHAIRMAN. We would like to have that.

Dr. PARRAN. I think it can be said, Mr. Chairman, that as a result of passage by Congress of the National Venereal Disease Control Act in 1938 and the organization which was developed in the several States and communities, it has been possible to hold the venereal diseases in check up to now in this country.

That in itself is new public health history. Never before in wartime has this result been attained in any country.

The venereal disease rates in our armed forces, I can say with confidence, are the lowest of any armed forces in the world.

Even among our allies substantial increases in the prevalence of venereal disease, both in the civil population and the military, have been reported.

Our evidence in this country, speaking generally, is that there has been no over-all increases of these infections in the civil populations.

Mr. FENTON. Do you think this act has assisted in that?

Dr. PARRAN. This act has been of substantial aid in bringing about that result.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. Any other questions?

Mr. Johnson?

Mr. JOHNSON. That act passed in 1938, was that under the theory that enforcement would be carried on by local enforcement agencies and your group would disseminate information and things like that?

Is that not your theory of that act?

Dr. PARRAN. Mr. Johnson, the theory of the act is that the Public Health Service would be given funds to carry out and conduct continuous activities concerning the cause and control of venereal disease; to lend personnel and to give grants-in-aid to the states in developing a laboratory diagnosis and treatment.

This act has dealt, in other words, with the medical side and is silent on the question of law enforcement except for one point.

Mr. JOHNSON. Well, do you think it is your function to, you might say, chaperone the enforcement agencies of the different States?

Our crime set-up is we have local agencies to enforce the criminal laws rather than Federal agencies.

For instance, in California we have a State board of health that has done a great deal of work along this line advising the public what can be done in case of trouble, and in my particular area we have a local health district which includes all the cities in the county, and it has done effective work.

And do you think the Army and Navy, or even your organization should go in and chaperone an agency and the police department and the sheriffs?

Dr. PARRAN. I do not think it is the part of the Public Health Service except to prevent the interstate spread of disease.

I mentioned one exception and that is that the Venereal Disease Control Act gives the Public Health Service authority to prevent the spread of venereal disease in interstate traffic.

In seeking to answer your question, I can say that the authority given under the condition specified with Public Law 163 of the Seventy-seventh Congress I think is a warranted use of Federal power to protect the health of the armed forces.

Mr. JOHNSON. The reason that they are in there is because there are military forces there who are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States?

Dr. PARRAN. That is the whole purpose of Public Law 163.

Mr. JOHNSON. Out where I live they have gone in there and virtually told the police department that they must maintain a certain standard of enforcement, and they threatened to put the city out of bounds, and things like that.

Of course maybe the enforcement has not been as effective as the Federal authorities though it should be.

Now, are there any complaints because of the local law-enforcement agencies, to your knowledge?

Dr. PARRAN. Oh, yes. There have been many complaints, coming from all over the country, in the early days of the war, but as time has gone on through the educational efforts and through the threat of Federal action under the so-called May Act, the situation has improved in hundreds of communities.

Mr. JOHNSON. You of course have a bird's-eye view of the whole thing when you say it has been very effective in combatting the dreaded diseases.

Dr. PARRAN. It has been.

Mr. JOHNSON. This policy, in checking the spread of these diseases.

Dr. PARRAN. Commercialized prostitution is one of the most frequent sources of venereal infection.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. Thank you.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Chairman, there are two gentlemen here, one from the medical department of the Army and one from the Navy.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, they have written statements?

Mr. JOHNSON. They have written statements, and their statements will show what the rate of infection in the Army and Navy is.

The CHAIRMAN. Capt. T. J. Carter from the Office of the Surgeon General of the Navy.

Captain, will you come around please. Do you have a written statement?

Captain CARTER. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Is it very lengthy?

Captain CARTER. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. Read it and then maybe Dr. Fenton or somebody else will want to question you.

STATEMENT BY CAPT. T. J. CARTER, OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY

Capt. CARTER. This is a statement prepared by the Surgeon General, Admiral McIntire. [Reading:]

It has been the experience of the United States Navy that during the period the May Act has been operating, there has been a reduction in the percentage of venereal infections, having as the source, the commercialized prostitute. It is believed a complete withdrawal of Federal interests in this matter would result in conditions detrimental to service personnel similar to those which existed prior to the enactment of the May Act.

In the interest of the preservation of the health and welfare of naval personnel this Bureau strongly recommends extension of the provisions of the May Act as contemplated in H. R. 2992.

The CHAIRMAN. That is your statement?

Captain CARTER. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Any question, Dr. Fenton?

Mr. FENTON. Mr. Chairman, as to making this permanent legislation, I understand the bill is to extend it for a year or so. Is that right?

The CHAIRMAN. That is right, or until such further time as Congress may desire.

The committee, of course, can write anything in that they want to.

I think that is the reason why it is not essential that we conduct any hearings here this morning.

Mr. FENTON. Captain, what part does the Navy play under this law?

Does the Medical Department of the Navy have anything to do with it?

Captain CARTER. The only interest we have in it is the protection of the health of the naval personnel.

We have nothing to do with the law enforcement.

If certain localities are having an undue incidence of infection that is naturally of great concern to us.

Mr. FENTON. And do you find that the incidence of venereal infection has been lessened by this act?

Captain CARTER. Yes, sir. There has been a tremendous reduction in venereal infection attributed to commercialized prostitution.

Mr. FENTON. I wonder if the various departments would put into the record the effect of this act on venereal diseases.

Captain CARTER. Yes, sir.

Mr. FENTON. Or how you determine that lessening of venereal disease.

Captain CARTER. Yes, sir.

Roughly, I think it was in 1941 our venereal disease rate was approximately 80 per thousand per year.

There has been a progressive reduction of the rate each year, and at this moment our rate is the lowest in history, approximately 30 per thousand per year.

The CHAIRMAN. To what extent do you attribute that to the existence of this act?

Captain CARTER. Our statistics show that commercialized prostitution contributes a large proportion, and there has been a progressive reduction in venereal infections reporting commercialized prostitution as a source.

Mr. JOHNSON. What age groups are represented in those statistics?

Captain CARTER. Our age groups of prostitutes?

Mr. JOHNSON. No; the age groups of those infected; 18 years of age on up.

Captain CARTER. Yes, sir. It is more or less in all age groups that we have in the Navy, and the largest group I would say would be from 25 to 30.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Elston?

Mr. ELSTON. What period of time do your calculations cover?

You said one time it was 80 per thousand.

Captain CARTER. That was the year I believe 1940 or 1941.

There has been a steady decrease since that date.

Mr. ELSTON. Of course that has not been due entirely to this law. You have advanced very materially in medical science in taking care of venereal cases, have you not?

Captain CARTER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ELSTON. And that is at least partly the cause of your very fine record that you have now.

Is that not true?

Captain CARTER. Yes, sir.

We have developed a contact-tracing which has been very effective in searching out the source of infection; and by that method the infected individual has been brought early to treatment, in a way drying up the reservoir of infection.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, Mr. Johnson.

Mr. JOHNSON. In your various installations like the navy yard do you have medical personnel there in the event they need that service?

Captain CARTER. Yes, sir. We do.

Mr. JOHNSON. And does that have something to do with the reduction which you have?

Captain CARTER. The provision of prophylactic stations has been standard in Navy procedure for years.

All personnel are required to appear for prophylaxis after exposure, and it a matter for the individual whether he comes or not.

It is provided and our educational program urges them all to appear for a prophylaxis.

Mr. JOHNSON. Well, do you have a rule similar to the one they do in the Army, that if he is treated and infection occurs there is no penalty for that?

Captain CARTER. That is right.

Mr. JOHNSON. So that is sort of really making them use it.

Captain CARTER. It is a thing urged. Yes, sir. We try to encourage them to use it.

The CHAIRMAN. All right.

Mr. MARTIN. Is the Navy in favor of the extension of this act?

Captain CARTER. Yes, sir. For 1 year.

Mr. MARTIN. I am talking about permanently.

Captain CARTER. That question would have to be answered by the legal representative of the Navy, who is Captain O'Brien.

Mr. FENTON. May I just ask one more question?

The CHAIRMAN. All right, Doctor.

Mr. FENTON. On the question of decreased veneral incidence, is syphilis or gonorrhea the most prevalent at the present time?

Captain CARTER. The most prevalent?

Mr. FENTON. Yes.

Captain CARTER. Gonorrhea is at present, sir.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Captain, has the Navy ever invoked its powers under this act?

Captain CARTER. No, sir. It has not.

Mr. ROE. Had this law not been in effect, is it your belief the conditions would have been a whole lot worse?

Captain CARTER. In my opinion there is no doubt that commercialized prostitution would have been increased greatly, yes.

Mr. ROE. And even though there has been some laxity in the enforcement of the law as it has been written, it has some effect in reducing——

Captain CARTER. I think there is no doubt that it has.

The CHAIRMAN. Anything else?

That is all.

I want to call one witness representing the Army, Maj. Ernest B. Howard, from the Office of the Surgeon General of the Army.

Do you have a statement?

STATEMENT BY MAJ. ERNEST B. HOWARD, OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

Major HOWARD. Mr. Chairman, I have a statement from the Secretary of War and I would like to read just one paragraph.

The CHAIRMAN. All right.

Major HOWARD (reading):

> Public Law 163, Seventy-seventh Congress, has been of great aid to the War Department in the enforcement of measures it has taken to protect its personnel from venereal diseases and immoral influences. It has rendered more effective the agreements made by the War and Navy Departments, Federal Security Agency, and State health departments on measures for the control of venereal diseases in areas where armed forces or civilian war employees are concentrated. The War Department believes it is essential that the present law be continued in effect to maintain and enforce measures established for the protection of personnel of the armed forces.

The CHAIRMAN. You may have the remainder of your statement printed in the record.

(The statement referred to follows:)

MAY 1, 1945.

Hon. ANDREW J. MAY
Chairman, Committee on Military Affairs,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. MAY: The War Department favors the enactment of H. R. 2992, Seventy-ninth Congress, a bill to extend the provisions of the act of July 11. 1941 (Public Law 163, 77th Cong.), but, for the purpose of clarity, suggests certain changes in form in the bill.

The proposed legislation would extend the expiration date of Public Law 163, Seventy-seventh Congress (55 Stat. 583), which prohibits prostitution within certain areas prescribed by the Secretaries of War and Navy, from May 15, 1945, to "May 15, 1946, or the date of the termination of hostilities in the present war, or on such earlier date as may be specified in a concurrent resolution of the two Houses of Congress for that purpose." The bill would further define the phrase "date of the termination of hostilities in the present war" to mean the date proclaimed by the President as the date of such termination or the date specified in a concurrent resolution of the two Houses of Congress as the date of such termination, whichever is the earlier.

In the War Department report to your committee dated March 24, 1941, concerning H. R. 2475, Seventy-seventh Congress, which became Public Law 163, it was stated, in part:

"The War Department is keenly and vitally interested in the matter of protecting its personnel from venereal diseases and immoral influences. It has cooperated in every practical way in preventing its military establishments from being surrounded by demoralizing environments. However, the effective aid of those in civilian authority in removing such influences has not always been forthcoming. The Department feels that it not only has an inescapable responsibility in this matter to the families and communities in which these young men were selected but, from the standpoint of its duty and determination to create an efficient Army, it is bound, as a military necessity, to do everything in its power to promote the health and conserve the vitality of the men undergoing training.

"There is no Federal statute now in force covering this field. Although the States, Territories, and the District of Columbia have such laws, they lack the requisite uniformity to assure accomplishment of the desired ends, and though it is true that vice areas adjoining military posts and stations may be put off limits by the military authorities, this expedient, operating only on the military personnel, does not remove temptation and leaves substantial problems of discipline and morale unsolved."

Public Law 163, Seventy-seventh Congress, has been of great aid to the War Department in the enforcement of measures it has taken to protect its personnel from venereal diseases and immoral influences. It has rendered more effective the agreements made by the War and Navy Departments, Federal Security Agency, and State health departments on measures for the control of venereal diseases in areas where armed forces or civilian war employees are concentrated. The War Department believes it is essential that the present law be continued in effect to maintain and enforce measures established for the protection of personnel of the armed forces.

In the interests of clarity, it is believed that certain changes in form should be made in the bill. A substitute draft of bill is enclosed for your consideration.

The enactment of the proposed legislation would result in no additional cost to the Government.

For the foregoing reasons, the War Department urges that the bill, amended to conform to the enclosed draft, be favorably considered.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY L. STIMSON, *Secretray of War.*

A BILL To extend the provisions of the Act of July 11, 1941 (Public Law 163, 77th Congress)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of Ameriea in Congress assembled, That Public Law 163, Seventy-seventh Congress (518a, ch. 13, title 18 of the Criminal Code), is hereby amended by deleting "May 15, 1945" and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "May 15, 1946, or the date of the termination of hostilities in the present war, or on such earlier date as may be specified in a concurrent resolution of the two Houses of Congress

for that purpose", and by adding at the end of said section a new paragraph reading as follows: "As used in this section the term 'date of termination of hostilities in the present war' means the date proclaimed by the President as the date of such termination or the date specified in a concurrent resolution in the two Houses of Congress as the date of such termination, whichever is the earlier."

The CHAIRMAN. Any question?

Mr. ELSTON. Well, is there any statement indicating that the Army wants it continued indefinitely?

Major HOWARD. The War Department has made no study with reference to its continuation indefinitely.

Mr. ELSTON. So there is no request by either service, the Army or the Navy, that this be made permanent legislation.

The CHAIRMAN. No; there is not any request. I simply asked the witnesses in the beginning, Mr. Elston, to state their views.

Mr. KILDAY. Do you think there is any question about the constitutionality of it?

Mr. ELSTON. I think there is serious doubt about it.

If this legislation became permanent one Secretary of War could take an area within a mile of a military post and another one come along and take in 10 miles.

The CHAIRMAN. Very well. Any further question on either side?

Mr. JOHNSTONE. Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to engage in any controversy with these gentlemen.

The CHAIRMAN. I do not intend to let you.

Mr. JOHNSTONE. All right. And I do not think there is any doubt but that the United States has the right, under the power to make war and prepare for war, to protect its armed forces by the protection of any statute that it deems necessary.

I do not say that the Federal Government can assume the enforcement of local laws, and I would not want to see them do it, but I think the Federal Government can declare what shall be the conditions in the vicinity of the places where it is maintaining troops, and, do it under the Constitution.

Now, I admit there is quite a question of policy, and I agree with Mr. Sparkman, that the conditions under which the law would be in effect should be made more or less certain.

I do not think there is any doubt about the constitutional right of the Government to do it.

The CHAIRMAN. That question is not before us right now. Thank you.

The remaining witnesses can leave their statements with the clerk and we will have them printed in the record, and I have here a number of telegrams and statements.

(The statements and telegrams referred to follow:)

MAY 1, 1945.

STATEMENT ON H. R. 2992, TO EXTEND THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT OF JULY 11, 1941, WITH REFERENCE TO THE PROHIBITION OF PROSTITUTION WITHIN CERTAIN AREAS.

(By Katherine F. Lenroot, Chief, Children's Bureau, United States Department of Labor)

When the original act (H. R. 2475) was before this committee, I testified on March 11, 1941, in behalf of the bill. The reasons stated at that time for the enactment of the bill are still pertinent. It is, in my opinion, important to extend the operation of the act at least until the termination of hostilities in the present war.

Experience has proved that the suppression of prostitution is primarily a community function and must include, as stated in my former testimony, law enforcement, public health, and social services, together with the education of the public as to the policies and measures adopted.

It is necessary during the period of the war that final authority be vested in the Federal Government to assure that certain policies essential for the effective prosecution of the war and the safety of the men in the armed services, as well as the people in the civilian population, will be carried out.

The fact that the May Act is on the statute books has served to support community measures which have been successfully undertaken, with few exceptions, without the application of the procedure authorized in the act itself.

As stated in my former testimony, the question of prostitution is of concern to the Children's Bureau because of its destructive effect upon family life and the welfare of adolescent boys and girls.

The rapid increase in population in many communities due to the proximity to military or naval establishments, and other forms of family and community disorganization related to war conditions, have resulted in an increase in juvenile delinquency. Such increases have been greater among girls than among boys. Figures obtained by the Children's Bureau from 225 juvenile courts throughout the country, which are admittedly only an incomplete measure of the extent of juvenile delinquency, indicate the following trends:

In 1944 the total number of juvenile-delinquency cases disposed of by these 225 courts was 100,951. Of these cases, 19,349 were those of girls. These figures represent a decrease of 5 percent in both boys' and girls' cases from 1943 to 1944.

In 69 juvenile courts serving areas with a population of 100,000 or more and for which figures were available for the period 1938 to 1944, the number of juvenile delinquency cases disposed of increased 56 percent from 1938 to 1944. Boys' cases increased 51 percent and girls' cases 82 precent. The decrease of 4 percent in the number of girls' cases disposed of by these 69 courts in 1944 as compared with 1943, is the first break in a progressive year-to-year increase that has been noted since 1939. Figures showing the reasons for which girls were referred to court are not yet available for 1944. In 1943, however, 399 courts reported that 23,965 delinquency cases of girls were disposed of. In these cases, 3 types of behavior (being ungovernable, running away, and sex offenses) accounted for 61 percent of the cases in which the reason for reference was reported. These 3 are considered together because ungovernable behavior and running away frequently involve sex offenses; moreover, some courts use the term "ungovernable behavior" to avoid recording a sex offense in official records.

Girls as young as 13, 14, or 15 years are involved in situations leading to prostitution. Organized prostitution requires constant recruiting from inexperienced girls who have failed to receive adequate protection from the family and from the community.

Problems of prostitution cut across State lines. Sometimes the area within easy reach of a military establishment includes parts of two or more States and attempts to clean up one part of the area may result in increased trouble in a nearby town across State lines.

It is particularly important to continue community protection because of the youth of many of the men in our armed services. Many young boys are having their first experience away from their homes and must make difficult adjustments to an entirely new way of living. As I pointed out in my testimony on the original bill, it is a responsibility of the Nation to do everything possible to assure that no member of the military forces be led to degrading associations because of lack of legal protection or of opportunity for wholesome and varied recreational activities and social contacts. Considerable progress has been made in the development of community resources which are preventive in character as well as in the development of treatment facilities for persons infected with venereal disease. There still remains much to be done in the development of a well-rounded program which will place emphasis on resources available to deal with individual problems of young people. Such resources are of far greater importance than legal repressive measures. We should not dispense, however, with the authority vested in the Federal Government under the May Act, which has served to encourage necessary legal action in local communities.

STATEMENT OF WATSON B. MILLER, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY

In over 700 communities, containing or close to military installations, houses of prostitution have been closed. In the large majority of towns and cities local officials have been ready and anxious to carry out the wishes of the Federal Government in regard to prostitution. Even in these cooperative towns, mayors and chiefs of police have told our representatives that they have been able to oppose the powerful groups that have a financial interest in prostitution, only because of the clearly expressed Federal position.

Although the May Act has been invoked only twice, there are many other places in which compliance has been secured only because of the existence of the law.

Reports indicate that the rate of venereal infections of furloughed troops who have had overseas service is higher than that of troops that have remained in this country. However these reports are founded on studies of certain groups which have been returned to this country. The statement may not be true as to the whole forces engaged in combat theaters—we hope not. This foreshadows a critical situation during the months immediately ahead. Failure to extend the May Act at this time would be disastrous for two reasons. First, it would remove the threat which has been necessary to secure action by reluctant communities. Second, it would be widely interpreted as a decrease in the Federal Government's concern for the protection of military and naval personnel. Such an interpretation during the closing months of the war and demobilization period would undermine the efforts of the large majority of local officials who believe in and have supported the Federal program.

STATEMENT OF DR. WILLIAM F. SNOW, CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I had the privilege of making a statement at your hearing 4 years ago on the act which this bill, H. R. 2992, proposes to continue in force. The testimony at that time was presented by witnesses from all parts of the country, representing every phase of public interest and type of organization.

I have followed closely the statements today in support of this bill and it is evident that the testimony for H. R. 2475 in 1941 is applicable now in support of H. R. 2992. It is also clear that both official and voluntary agency officers concerned with welfare, health, and law enforcement—Federal, State, and local—have found this act to be of value and desire its extension. I heartily agree with this view. There are only three points on which I would like to comment further.

First, the experience during this war, as was the case in the first World War when a similar law was in force, has shown that this act supplements rather than replaces, local and State efforts to protect "the efficiency, health, and welfare" of the military forces while on liberty or furlough in communities.

Like other laws designed to safeguard and protect citizens, whatever their occupation and status, its greatest value has been assurance to community and State authorities and their civic groups, that the United States Government will take part in carrying out measures when necessary within the limits of this act. The early applications of the act in Tennessee and North Carolina proved it to be practicable and effective. At that time neither the Army nor the civilian authorities were equipped to deal successfully with the serious problems involved. With the invocation of this law and the consequent action of the Department of Justice, the situation promptly cleared up with significant benefits, both to the Army and the civilian communities. Since then the act has been an important factor in stimulating joint local, State, and Federal programs of law enforcement, social protection, and other constructive activities for safeguarding the environment of youth in hundreds of areas, without the necessity of taking the final steps provided in the law.

Secondly, experience shows that this act has been of inestimable value in encouraging citizen groups to study, not only what their authorities and communities should do for protection of soldiers and sailors on liberty or furlough in their midst, but also what should be done at the same time to protect, similarly, their industrial and youth groups. Discussions of these questions and the possibility of invoking the May Act have aroused leading citizens everywhere to inform themselves

about the medical, social, legal, and educational facts and what must be done to stop the exploitation of our girls as well as our boys, through the many criminal or antisocial practices against which they can be safeguarded only by education and social-protection measures properly applied and vigorously carried out. Such discussions have led to realization that in addition to the excellent medical and public-health program in this field, there is needed an equally effective social-protection and law-enforcement program.

Finally I would emphasize the influence of this act as an expression of the determination of the Congress to carry out the will of the American people in this matter by every practicable procedure in line with the established relationship of the Federal, State, and local governments. With this in view, the act says, "the Secretaries of War and Navy and the Federal Security Administrator are each hereby authorized and directed to take such steps as they deem necessary to suppress and prevent the violation thereof, and to accept the cooperation of the authorities of States and their counties, districts, and other political subdivisions in carrying out the purposes of this act." On this foundation of understanding and desire for united action, the continuance of the act and its application wherever and whenever needed will do much to achieve permanent protection for our youth in the military forces and on their return home.

Many who support this act now, recognize that it will be doubly important in the event that universal military training becomes a requirement of our national defense.

At the beginning of the war a Federal interrdepartmental venereal disease committee was set up, including members from the Federal administrative units concerned, and national voluntary agency representation. Their views support the extension of the act. Later an advisory body was set up, representative of citizen groups and interests generally, and comprising individuals appointed by the Federal Security Administrator after consultation with the Secretaries of War and Navy. This committee or commission has been active in considering and promoting the exchange of ideas on Federal, State, or local proposals advanced by both citizens and officials concerned with objectives in the broad field of social hygiene. The history and extension of the May Act was studied by this group also, and instructions were given to a subcommittee, comprising of Mr. Eliot Ness, Rev. James M. Lawler, and Dr. William F. Snow, to speak in support of the introduction of a bill for continuing the act in force.

The American Social Hygiene Association is another national agency which has studied the workings of this law, and has secured current views of many individuals and groups from all parts of the United States. This testimony is in favor of extension. The association, therefore, endorsed the amendments proposed in the attached.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like permission to present for your consideration and the record a series of letters, telegrams, and short statements which are typical of these views favoring the enactment of H. R. 2992.

AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED BY AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION TO THE MAY ACT, PUBLIC LAW 163, SEVENTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

Alternatives:

(1) Strike out the words "until May 15, 1945," or

(2) Strike out these words and substitute the following: "until the termination of the present war with Germany and Japan and for such time thereafter as may be necessitated because of the continued maintenance of large bodies of servicemen in camps, depots, and garrisons in the United States: *Provided*, That the powers granted to the Secretaries of War and the Navy cease whenever the President of the United States shall publicly proclaim the termination of the military necessities that require this grant of power to the said Secretaries."

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., April 28, 1945.

Hon. ANDREW J. MAY,
Chairman, Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In connection with the hearings your committee is holding Tuesday morning, May 1, on H. R. 2992, I should like to offer the following for your consideration:

It is my hope that the bill as originally submitted may, in its final form, be so worded that its effectiveness would not necessarily end with the cessation of hostilities. We are going to have a large number of men in the hospitals and in camps for some time thereafter, and we must be concerned about their protection.

In addition to that, any suggestion at this time that the Federal Government would lose interest in the protection of the men in service would be an incentive to the underworld to prepare to set itself up in full force.

I do feel that these points should be kept very much in mind and would appreciate your making this letter a part of the record.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

FRANCES P. BOLTON.

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS,
Washington, D. C., April 30, 1945.

Hon. ANDREW J. MAY,
Chairman, Committee on Military Affairs,
United States House of Representatives.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MAY: We understand that the May Act of July 11, 1941, which prohibited the practice of prostitution in areas or zones around military and naval establishments, to be determined by the Secretaries of War and Navy respectively, expires May 15, 1945.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs, consisting of 2,500,000 women in 16,500 clubs throughout the Nation, went on record as being in favor of your act in the following resolution:

RECREATION AND HEALTH IN CAMP AREAS

Whereas the General Federation of Women's Clubs has always been interested in the health and welfare of the youth of the Nation, and

Whereas it is recognized that thousands of young men will be removed from their homes to military and naval establishments in preparation for service to their country in time of emergency, and

Whereas the GFWC realizes the dangers and temptations that often surround such military and training establishments, which are detrimental to those in training and to the communities in which they are located, as affecting the morale, health, and welfare of those concerned: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the GFWC in convention assembled May 1941 use it utmost influence to secure wholesome recreational facilities in the areas around the camps and to work with other agencies for the best interests of the camps and the communities in matters dealing with health, recreation, and social life, directing particular attention to solving the immediate and increasing problems of prostitution and unregulated sale of liquor in areas adjoining the military and training camps.

I beg to inform you therefore that the members of my organization are earnestly desirous that bill H. R. 2992 pass at this time, thereby extending the operation of the original act until May 15, 1946, or the date of the termination of hostilities of the present war, in order that the young men in our families stationed in these camps may be protected from this most insidious of all evils.

Sincerely yours,

ANNA KELTON (Mrs. Harvey W.) WILEY,
Chairman, Department of Legislation.

APRIL 30, 1945.

Dr. SNOW: Will you please convey to Congressman May my conviction that the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America is interested in the extension of the May Act, on the grounds that it has already served a good purpose as an instrument for the curtailment of vice and the spread of venereal disease.

ROSWELL P. BARNES.

STATEMENT OF MISS JEAN B. PINNEY, EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL OF SOCIAL HYGIENE, AND DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON LIAISON OFFICE, AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION.

My opportunity to observe the workings of laws against prostitution began in 1917, when, as a member of the staff of the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities, I was assigned to review certain reports and other details flowing through the Washington headquarters of the Commission. Many of these reports concerned prostitution conditions and the steps taken to correct these conditions through enforcement by the States and communities of their existing laws for this purpose. I noticed that where community authorities and law enforcement officials seemed slow or found such action difficult, the knowledge that a Federal law existed (sec. 13 of the First World War Draft Act) on which they might fall back if all else failed, helped the situation considerably.

In the years between wars, as a staff member of the American Social Hygiene Association, assigned to interpretation of the association's program through public information channels and the Journal of Social Hygiene, and as a lecturer and consultant for many National, State, and community groups, I have had the privilege of seeing public interest and approval steadily increase regarding all phases of social hygiene. This interest and approval, as expressed, for example, in widespread participation each February in the annual Social Hygiene Day observance sponsored by the association, has constantly mounted with each ensuing year. All the States and Territories, including thousands of communities and special groups, join in this intensive effort to spread public knowledge and build public opinion. And this effort applies especially to spreading knowledge concerning the working of social hygiene laws and to building of public opinion in their support.

During the present war, the growth of understanding of the problems presented by prostitution and venereal diseases has naturally been great, and has resulted in greatly increased joint effort to conduct effective wartime measures for protection of the efficiency, health, and welfare of soldiers and sailors. As director of the association's Washington office since 1941, in that time I have received many inquiries from other national organizations whose headquarters are in Washington, regarding the status and effectiveness of the May Act. The women's groups, with whom I act as special liaison, are especially alert to the possibilities of progress through such legislation. In the wartime groups of which I am a member, such as the National Advisory Council of the War Department's Women's Interest Section and the National Women's Advisory Committee on Social Protection, representing national organizations whose combined membership totals many millions of women, I am often asked to report on these matters. I receive similar requests expressing equally keen interest from small rural groups such as the home demonstration clubs and the county public health nurses in my home State of Vermont.

All of these groups express themselves as considering it most important that adequate legal provision be made, both in the States and federally, to help in repressing prostitution and in preventing the spread of venereal diseases, not only now as a wartime measure, but for as long as may be needed to combat these social and health evils as dragbacks on the strength and happiness of American family life.

LAW SCHOOL OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
Cambridge, Mass., April 30, 1945.

Hon. ANDREW J. MAY,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. MAY: As a director of the American Social Hygiene Association I would like to add my support to the bill that you introduced in the House of Representatives on April 23, 1945, namely, H. R. 2992, to extend the provisions of the so-called May Act of 1941.

The data that has been brought to my attention relating to the operation of the May Act fully justifies extending this act until the conclusion of the war. It has been an important contribution in maintaining the health of our armed forces, and the continued maintenance of that health is as important now as it ever has been.

May I suggest, however, one way in which I believe your bill could be improved? It is not my desire to transform the May Act—a wartime measure—at this time

into permanent peace legislation. But the cessation of hostilities will not of itself do away with those factors that make a measure of this type necessary. After the cessation of hostilities a period of demobilization will take place. That period will unfortunately be fairly long and will require for a time the maintenance of large numbers of soldiers and sailors in various localities in this country pending their discharge from the services. It seems to me that if this is a true picture of what is likely to happen, the protection of the May Act ought to be extended during this period. None of us now can tell when that period will end. Rather, it is a matter of military judgment under all the circumstances as to when it no longer is necessary for the Federal Government to extend this type of protection to men congregated in camps and military stations throughout the United States. That judgment can, however, be made by persons in the position of the Secretary of War or the Secretary of the Navy who, with all the data that they have in their hands, can judge when it no longer becomes wise to have such an implement as the May Act at their disposal. I would therefore suggest that the May Act be continued until the termination of hostilities in the present war and until such time as it may be deemed advisable by the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy to continue its extension. In other words, give these Secretaries the power and the responsibility to do away with the May Act when in their judgment it no longer is necessary for safeguarding the health of the armed forces.

I have attempted to draw an amendment which I believe would accomplish that result which as I said above would not only cover the period suggested by you but also that additional period during which the demobilization of our armed services would take place.

Faithfully yours,

J. M. LANDIS.

H. R. 2992

A BILL To extend the provisions of the Act of July 11, 1941 (Public Law 163, Seventy-seventh Congress)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 163, Seventy-seventh Congress (518a, ch. 13, title 18, of the Criminal Code); is hereby amended by deleting "May 15, 1945" and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "The date of the termination of hostilities in the present war and for such time thereafter as may be necessitated because of the continued maintenance of large bodies of servicemen in camps, depots, and garrisons in the United States: *Provided*, That the powers herein granted to the Secretaries of the Army and Navy shall cease whenever the President of the United States, on the advice of such Secretaries, shall publicly proclaim the termination of the military necessity that requires this grant of power to the said Secretaries".

SOCIAL HYGIENE SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
April 28, 1945.

Hon. ANDREW J. MAY,
Chairman, Committee on Military Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR CHAIRMAN MAY: Although it has not been found essential or advisable to invoke the provisions of Public Law 163, Seventy-seventh Congress, in or adjacent to the District of Columbia, we are convinced of the need for and value of the legislation. It provides a potential quarantine against the exploiters of prostitution, and its mere statutory presence is a constant reminder to them of our Federal Government's vital concern in the health and welfare of service men and women—and that this concern can and will be translated into decisive legal action should conditions warrant Federal intervention.

We welcomed the legislation when it was enacted in 1941 and we endorse, wholeheartedly, its continuation as provided for in H. R. 2992. We respectively suggest that even greater value will accrue from this bill if its provisions are extended to cover the Nation's postwar military establishments, particularly in view of the possible maintenance of larger Army and Navy standing personnels and trainee centers than were considered essential prior to this global war.

Truly yours,

RAY H. EVERETT,
Executive Secretary.

STATEMENT OF MAUD BUTTERWORTH MOORE, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY, CHILD WELFARE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSOCIATION, OF NEW ORLEANS, LA.

I welcome the opportunity of submitting this statement in support of H. R. 2992. A private agency such as ours, that is interested in the health and welfare of its community, realizes that the control of venereal diseases is one of the community's fundamental "musts." This fact has made itself apparent throughout so many different phases of our work. In dealing with infant welfare, to reduce the number of deaths in the first week of life, we had to begin by treating the mother for syphilis. When we wanted to reduce invalidism among mothers, our primary problem was gonorrhea in women. In industrial nursing, we found syphilis, again, as an important cause of accidents and a reason for slow recovery, producing additional loss of manpower hours. Even in old age we are finding many of our patients incapacitated by blindness and paralysis which need not have been had syphilis been controlled. Therefore, quite naturally, any sound steps which can be taken to assist in controlling these conditions are of great interest to our association, as a health agency and as a group of individual taxpayers, since syphilis fills our tax-supported institutions.

Great strides are being made in the treatment of the venereal diseases in their early stages, which is a sound, constructive step forward, but great emphasis should lie on prevention of infection rather than on cure alone.

The churches, parents, schools, and private agencies, such as the American Social Hygiene Association and its affiliates, can do much preventive work among young people by sound character building; but if unorganized prostitution is the responsibility of these groups, on the shoulders of the official agencies still rests the responsibility for the suppression of commercialized prostitution.

With the advent of large numbers of the armed forces, city authorities frequently find themselves in a difficult position. They are unable to control the military, just as the Army or Navy is unable to control the civilian population, but by combining forces great strides can be made in coping with the problem. This bill, H. R. 2992, provides the activating machinery to bring this about in cities and areas in which local and State law-enforcement and social-protection facilities have broken down or are insufficient to cope with the situation.

Just how beneficial to local authorities Federal backing can be is demonstrated by a letter I received from the secretary of the New Orleans Venereal Disease Council recently. This group is composed of the mayor, superintendent of the city board of health, venereal disease control officers of the city, State, Army and Navy, judge and prosecutor of the women's court, chief of police, chief of vice squad, senior shore patrol officer, provost marshal, social protection representative, medical officer of the rapid treatment center, chief matron and social protection supervisor of the diagnostic center, and the superintendent of public buildings—all people qualified to know the value of the May Act to our community. The letter follows:

MY DEAR MRS. MOORE: In response to your request during our conference yesterday morning, the New Orleans Venereal Disease Council discussed congressional action regarding the May Act at its meeting yesterday afternoon.

It was pointed out to the council that the life of the May Act was about to run out, and that it would have to be reenacted by Congress within the next several weeks. A good number of the council spoke on the subject, and Dr. Whitney, chairman of the council, mentioned that the recent meeting of the State and Territorial health officers in Washington had recommended its reenactment.

I think it is particularly interesting that no member of the New Orleans Venereal Disease Council spoke against the May Act, and a unanimous vote was cast to recommend its reenactment to an indefinite date.

The New Orleans Venereal Disease Council is the functional group whose membership includes all the functional agencies responsible for the social protection program in New Orleans. It sits as the mayor's administrative adviser in the program. The fact that the council did not specify that the May Act should be reenacted only until hostilities cease, indicates that this body is interested in its continuance into the postwar era. This is, of course, essential if we are to profit from the fruits of repression and social protection when peace returns.

The New Orleans Venereal Disease Council has authorized me to communicate with you on this matter and to transmit, through you, its recommendation to the Congress if and when you appear before a congressional committee.

Yours very sincerely,

FRANKLIN C. HOCHREITER,
Secretary, New Orleans Venereal Disease Council.

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEW YORK, N. Y., *April 30, 1945.*

Hon. ANDREW J. MAY,
Washington 25, D. C.

DEAR SIR: In March 1941 the national board of the Young Women's Christian Association, on the recommendation of the public affairs committee and the family relationships committee wired you of its unanimous support of the May bill (H. R. 2475). This bill was approved by the President July 11, 1941, and became Public Law 163 in the seventy-seventh Congress. It is again our earnest belief that this act should be continued beyond its present termination date—May 15, 1945. We believe suitable action should be considered by Congress quite immediately for its furtherance until the termination of war with Germany and Japan and thereafter as long as may be necessary to meet emergency conditions.

As an organization of women we are deeply interested in the protective legislation provided by the May Act not alone for the health and welfare of the military groups. We believe it also has proved valuable in protecting women and girls against exploitation as prostitutes and against the moral and physical hazards involved in prostitution. The continuance of this act has the support of other groups in which we are represented such as the National Women's Advisory Committee on Social Protection of the Federal Security Agency.

Very sincerely yours,

MARY S. (Mrs. Henry A.) INGRAHAM,
President.

THE NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION,
Washington, D. C., April 30, 1945.

Hon. ANDREW J. MAY,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MAY: The National Sheriffs' Association wishes to go on record with the House Military Affairs Committee as favoring continuation of the May Act beyond the present termination date, May 15, 1945.

We do believe there are a few objectionable factors in the May Act in its present form, but rather than risk interruption in its continuation, through deliberation on amendments, etc., we urge that it remain in force as now written.

If minimum sentence were a year and a day instead of a year, persons convicted could be released on parole. By placing them under official supervision for a period of time following institutional release, we believe the act would be strengthened.

Very truly yours,

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION,
CHARLES J. HAHN, JR.
Executive Secretary.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE,
Washington D. C., April 30, 1945.

Hon. ANDREW J. MAY,
Chairman, House Military Affairs Committee
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. MAY: The International Association of Chiefs of Police wishes to place before your committee at its hearing to be conducted Tuesday, May 1, 1945, its recommendation that the present May Act be extended for at least a year, or to the termination of the war as declared by President Truman or by a joint resolution of the Congress.

It is our opinion that extension of the May Act is imperative at this time to continue in effect the progress made in attaining the objectives embraced in the original provisions of the statute.

Very respectfully yours,

EDWARD J. KELLY,
Executive Secretary.

STATEMENT OF BASCOM JOHNSON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGENE ASSOCIATION, APRIL 29, 1945

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Military Affairs committee, I am submitting this statement in support of H. R. 2992. This bill continues in effect for a maximum of 1 year, ending May 15, 1946, the so-called May Act (Public Law 163, 77th Cong., approved July 11, 1941).

I had the privilege of appearing before your committee in support of the original May Act on March 12, 1941. May I refer to my testimony at that time, and to my written statement filed with your committee? These are found on pages 35–40 of the printed committee hearings on H. R. 2475, March 11–24, 1941.

I have had opportunity, during the last 4 years, to observe the effect of this act in many of the 48 States. This was in connection with the discharge of my duties as national director of legal and protective activities of the American Social Hygiene Association.

I observed its effect particularly and at close range in the five States comprising the Eighth Service Command area of the Army. These States are Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Arkanssas.

In this area hundreds of thousands of our soldiers and sailors were and are being trained for war.

Before this war there were many localities in these States where prostitution was open and flagrant and the venereal-disease rates among the armed forces, exposed thereto very high.

Today such prostitution conditions are rare and the venereal disease rate is, in consequence, much reduced.

It is my considered judgment, after working closely with the health and law enforcement officials, both of the armed forces and of the civilian governments, in these five States, that this improvement is due in large measure to the existence of the May Act as an expression of national policy.

Not only have these and other States and their cities loyally supported this national policy for the protection of the armed forces, but they have done so by using their own laws where they were adequate or passing new and stronger ones where they were needed. These new laws were in most cases modeled largely on the provisions of the May Act and even contained important improvements on that act in some new State laws—as for example those of Texas and Arkansas.

I am convinced from my experience with the May Act and the similar section of the Draft Act of 1917–18 that the people of this country will generally support, both during the war and in peace times, the assumption and exercise by the Federal Government of such power as is given to the Secretaries of War and Navy by the bill before you, in order to protect soldiers and sailors from prostitution and venereal diseases.

Most people regard this activity by the Federal Government as the discharge of a definite responsibility which drafts young men and boys and stations them in camps far from home and friends. The fact that it has not been necessary for the Secretary of the Navy to invoke the May Act, and only necessary for the Secretary of War to do so in two instances is a tribute to the loyalty and cooperation of the American people in time of emergency. Even in the two cases where the Secretary of War invoked the act it was done at the request of, or with the approval of the Governors of the States concerned, because of the fact that these Governors recognized that their own State laws or law-enforcement machinery were inadequate to do the job.

Another very important result of the May Act has been its effect on the attitudes and activities of commanding and other officers of Army and Navy units throughout the country. Ordinarily Army and Navy officers do not concern themselves with the health and behavior of civilians.

The May Act, however, recognizes a fact and establishes a principle that the Army and Navy are, and must be, concerned about these matters because soldiers and sailors mingle with civilians, catch their diseases, and are corrupted by their criminal and sexual delinquents.

The result has been that Army and Navy officers have become important members of teams in many localities near which the armed forces are located—teams stringing together to reach common goals of good social and physical health. These teams are usually captained by the local civilian health officer. They include medical representatives of the Army and/or Navy and Public Health Service, civilian and military police, sheriffs, judges, and in some communities representatives of councils of social agencies, chambers of commerce, ministerial associations, women's organizations, and social hygiene associations.

They operate as a team, they have or create public opinion, and they present a united front that would be impossible were the Army and Navy to remain aloof and apart from the program.

The spark plug of all this activity is the fact that the Army and Navy near these communities is day by day making known its need for civilian cooperation. The armed forces feel that they can take the initiative and voice their needs and, in return, give vital help to civilian health authorities by learning from infected soldiers or sailors the identities of their civilian contacts and reporting these contacts.

It is my conviction that the May Act is the vital principle in all this joint activity.

I hope, therefore, that it will not only be continued in effect as provided in H. R. 2992 but that some way will be found to continue some such provisions as a permanent contribution of the Federal Government toward the protection of our peacetime Army and Navy.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN INC.,
New York, N. Y., April 30, 1945.

Congressman ARTHUR J. MAY,
House Military Committee,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: The National Council of Jewish Women is gratified to know that you have introduced H. R. 2992, providing for the renewal of Public Law 163. The National Council of Jewish Women believes that the outlawing of prostitutes near military and naval centers has helped to provide social-hygiene protection to our armed forces and to reduce the rates of venereal infection.

We, therefore, express our fullest support of H. R. 2992. We request that this statement be included in the record.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. JOSEPH M. WELT,
National President.

NEW YORK, N. Y., *April 30, 1945.*

Hon. ANDREW J. MAY,
Chairman, House Military Affairs Committee:

National Society for the Prevention of Blindness urges continuation of measures to control prostitution as provided in proposed bill H. R. 2992. Considers such legislation of vital importance in the protection of eye health and sight conservation.

ELEANOR BROWN MERRILL,
National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

H. R. 2992.

NEW YORK, N. Y., *April 30, 1945.*

Hon. ANDREW J. MAY,
House Office Building, Washington, D. C.:

I strongly favor your bill H. R. 2992 to continue in force the so-called army act to reduce prostitution. It has produced successful results and its operations should be extended.

CHARLES L. CHUTE,
Executive Director National Probation Association.

H. R. 2992.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *April 30, 1945.*

Hon. ANDREW J. MAY,
Chairman, House Committee on Military Affairs,
New House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In connection with proposed legislation extending the operative period during which the so-called May bill is to be in effect would you be so kind as to please incorporate in the hearings the fact that the United States

Conference of Mayors reiterates its previously expressed position for this type of control and regulation during the present emergency period. The reasons for the necessity of such legislation as expressed in the previous hearings by President LaGuardia still prevail and will prevail until such time as there are no longer great concentrations of military personnel in certain urban areas.

PAUL V. BETTERS,
Executive Director, the United States,
Conference of Mayors.

NEW YORK, N. Y., *April 30, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
American Social Hygiene Association, Washington, D. C.:

Understand amendment to May Act being considered tomorrow. I feel extension of this act to May 15, 1946, is essential. Strongly urge that every consideration be given to passing of amendment. While National Travelers Aid Association does not authorize me to wire Congressman May because unable have proper meetings, would appreciate your indicating staff's interest in seeing amendment passed.

BERTHA MCCALL.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH,
Raleigh, N. C., April 28, 1945.

The Honorable ANDREW J. MAY,
House Military Affairs Committee, The Capitol,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: The North Carolina State Board of Health is vitally interested in bill H. R. 2992, which proposes to extend the May Act which is now in effect in the Fort Bragg area of North Carolina. Fayetteville and Raleigh are most vitally concerned though smaller towns in the area are affected to a lesser extent. In both of these towns prostitution flourished with the initial influx of military personnel. Intense efforts to control the situation through local law enforcement failed almost completely. Venereal disease rates at Fort Bragg were high.

The May Act was invoked in this area in 1942. The result has been gratifying. Commercialized prostitution has practically been eliminated from the area. Clandestine prostitutes operate with extreme difficulty. Venereal-disease rates have been reduced to low levels.

At the present time, there is every indication that termination of the May Act would result in a bad situation. The local law enforcement agencies and courts of the area have not changed their attitude toward the repression program. That prostitution will flourish in these communities if the May Act terminates is an opinion held by certain interested members of the police forces of Fayetteville and Raleigh, by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents engaged in prosecution of the May Act, by the venereal disease control officer at Fort Bragg, by investigators and health officers of local health departments in Fayetteville and Raleigh, and by the State board of health.

As the State Health officer, I am convinced that the detrimental effect of prostitution is not confined to its production of venereal disease, which effect is an established fact. It should also be noted that commercialized prostitution: (1) Is a dirty racket; (2) demands a constant supply of young girls to function as a business; (3) discards infected or old prostitutes to the streets to become progressively degenerating human wrecks; (4) encourages participation in promiscuity by men of the community (including military personnel). In other words, the greater the supply of prostitutes the greater the demand therefor.

To summarize, the May Act has been effective in controlling prostitution and its associated evils in the area of our state which is host to the greatest concentration of military personnel. Its termination at this time would, in my opinion, and in the opinion of others, lead to a flagrant resumption of prostitution in its wake. I, therefore, urgently request that the May Act be extended as proposed in bill H. R. 2992.

Very truly yours,

CARL V. REYNOLDS, M. D.,
State Health Officer.

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH,
Jackson, Miss., May 1, 1945.

The Honorable ANDREW J. MAY,
House Military Affairs Committee,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. MAY: While it is true that the May Act has been invoked only a very few times since it became effective on July 11, 1941, the very fact that we had such a law in full force and effect was all that was necessary most of the time. It could have been used to advantage more often, but the law has been of great help in our supreme efforts to control the venereal diseases.

The Governor of the State, the attorney general, public health officials, and most of our citizens in all parts of the State hope to see the extension of the act for at least another year.

Sincerely yours,

FELIX J. UNDERWOOD, M. D.

COSMOS CLUB,
Washington, D. C., April 30, 1945.

HON. ANDREW J. MAY,
Chairman, House Committee on Military Affairs,
United States Congress, Washington, D. C.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MAY: Maj. Gen. Merritte W. Ireland has just telephoned me that he finds that a prior appointment to attend another congressional committee meeting conflicts with his appearance, as planned, before your committee tomorrow.

General Ireland asks that I express his regret, and submit the attached letter from Mr. Philip R. Mather, chairman of the Committee on War Activities of which he is also a member.

General Ireland had intended to state that his experience as Chief Surgeon of the American Expeditionary Forces in France under General Pershing and his subsequent service as Surgeon General of the Army during the postwar period makes him realize how important it is to extend this act and to apply it vigorously, together with all other measures.

If we do not do this, General Ireland said, we may expect serious damage to our whole preventive medicine and social protection program in this field of social hygiene.

Sincerely,

W. F. SNOW.

BOSTON, *April 27, 1945.*

DR. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
American Social Hygiene Association,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. SNOW: It is my understanding that H. R. 2475, generally known as the May Act, expires on May 15 of this year, and that Congressman May has just introduced a new bill entitled "H. R. 2992" extending this act, and that a hearing on the proposed extension is to be held next Tuesday morning, May 1.

I would like very much to be present in person to state my strong convictions in favor of this proposed extension, but as I am unable to be in Washington at that time I would greatly appreciate it if you could present this statement at the hearing on my behalf.

The May Act, during the past 4 years, has proved to be an extremely useful measure in the efforts that have been made to protect the military, industrial, and general population against the spread of the venereal diseases. While I understand that it has only been necessary to invoke it on two or three occasions, its mere existence and the possibility of its being invoked has on numerous occasions exerted a wholesome influence on appropriate officials and on public opinion in various parts of the country.

With the prospect of the continuance of wartime conditions for many months in the future, it would be most unfortunate if this act were allowed to lapse at this time.

The association's committee, of which I have the honor to be chairman, favors the suggestion of effectuating this extension in the manner indicated on the sheet

attached to this letter, but the important thing is that the act be extended for whatever period and in whatever manner Congress may decide.

Very sincerely yours,

PHILIP R. MATHER,
Chairman, Committee on War Activities, American Social Hygiene Association.

PROPOSAL

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 163, Seventy-seventh Congress (518a, chapter 13, title 18, of the Criminal Code), is hereby amended by deleting "May 15, 1945" and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "until the termination of the present war with Germany and Japan and for such time thereafter as may be necessitated because of the continued maintenance of large bodies of servicemen in camps, depots, and garrisons in the United States: *Provided,* That the powers granted to the Secretaries of War and the Navy cease whenever the President of the United States shall publicly proclaim the termination of the military necessities that require this grant of power to the said Secretaries."

[Telegrams]

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., *April 29, 1945.*

DR. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
Washington, D. C.:

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers urges that resolution to continue May Act, Law 163, be adopted as requested by social protection meeting April 12, in which we participated.

MRS. WILLIAM HASTINGS, *President.*

DOVER, DEL., *April 28, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
Washington, D. C.:

For the health, efficiency, and general well-being of the Army and Navy, particularly at this critical period, and for the happy reunion of families after the war the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers favors an extension of the May Act.

CECIE P. HENRY, *Vice President.*

CAMDEN, N. J., *April 29, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
Washington, D. C.:

As medical examiner of high-school girls in Camden, N. J., public schools, and social hygiene instructor and councilor of youth and adults, I realize the need for continuation of the May Act and urge passage of bill H. R. 2992.

MABLE GREER LESHER, M. D.,
Social Hygiene Education Chairman,
New Jersey Congress of Parents and Teachers.

ATHENS, GA., *April 30, 1945.*

Congressman ANDREW J. MAY,
Washington, D. C.:

At their meeting on April 12, in Washington, representatives of 30 national women's organizations, members of the National Women's Advisory Committee on Social Protection, voted to support plans for extension of the May Act and to ask immediate endorsement of this measure from their organizations.

MRS. H. B. RITCHIE,
Chairman, Advisory Committee.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *April 30, 1945.*

Congressman ANDREW J. MAY,
Chairman House Military Affairs Committee, Washington, D. C.:

The American Medical Women's National Association wish to back bill H. R. 2992 to extend provisions of the May Act to fullest extent. You have our hearty endorsement.

HELEN GLADYS KAIN, M. D.,
Members, National Women's Advisory Committee on Social Protection.

NEW YORK, N. Y., *April 28, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
Washington, D. C.:

Please convey to Representative May the assurance that public-health workers generally approve extending at least for the duration the May Act through H. R. 2992.

REGINALD M. ATWATER, M. D.,
American Public Health Association.

NEW YORK, N. Y., *April 30, 1945.*

Congressman ANDREW J. MAY,
Washington, D. C.:

We wish to be put on record favoring continuation and enforcement of the May Act as provided in H. R. 2992.

SAUL MILLS,
Greater New York Congress of Industrial Organizations Council.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., *April 28, 1945.*

WILLIAM F. SNOW,
Washington, D. C.:

Representing large and important groups in California interested in the venereal-disease problem, we realize that the May Act is extremely important and, therefore, urge its reenactment. It is almost more important in time of peace than in time of war as we will have more young people in this country and, therefore, our problem will be aggravated, not diminished, at the end of the war. Will you please present this telegram to our California legislators and any others where it would be helpful as our directors represent industry, labor, newspapers, etc., all over the State.

CALIFORNIA SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION,
LAWRENCE ARNSTEIN, *Executive Secretary.*

ATLANTA, GA., *April 30, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
Washington, D. C.:

The Georgia Social Hygiene Council endorses most heartily H. R. 2992, extending the May Act.

RALPH WAGER, *President.*

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., *April 30, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
Washington, D. C.:

Will you please convey to Congress our urgent plea that H. R. 2992, extending May Act be passed. Health and social hygiene authorities of Indianapolis are convinced that the material reduction in venereal-disease rates this community could not have been effected without May Act.

(Mrs.) MEREDITH NICHOLSON, Jr.

LOUISVILLE, KY., *April 30, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
American Social Hygiene Association, Washington, D. C.:

Urge your best efforts in support of H. R. 2992, extending the May Act. Necessary this act be extended if work of this association be worth while.

MARGARET FLYNN,
Executive Secretary, Social Hygiene Association of Kentucky.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., *April 30, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
American Social Hygiene Association, Washington, D. C.:

In favor reenacting May Act for indefinite period. Should extend beyond end of war.

NEW ORLEANS SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION,
LEONARD V. HUBER, *President.*

BOSTON, MASS., *April 30, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
American Social Hygiene Association,
Washington, D. C.:

We strongly urge passage of H. R. 2992, extending May Act to fortify local authorities in repression of prostitution. At this crucial time expiration of May Act would be disastrous.

DOROTHY W. MILLER,
Executive Secretary,
Massachusetts Society for Social Hygiene.

ST. LOUIS, MO., *April 29, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
Washington, D. C.:

Missouri Social Hygiene Association urges extension of Congressman May's bill, H. R. 2992.

Dr. HARRIET S. CORY.

KANSAS CITY, MO., *April 28, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
American Social Hygiene Association,
Washington, D. C.:

Kansas City Social Hygiene Society goes on record supporting Congressman May's bill, H. R. 2992, extending May Act.

MARY D. REAM,
Executive Secretary,
Kansas City Social Hygiene Society.

NEW YORK, N. Y., *April 30, 1945.*

Hon. ANDREW J. MAY,
Chairman, House Military Affairs Committee,
Washington, D. C.:

Just learned May Act is up for renewal. Hope this important legislation will be passed for another year.

Dr. J. A. GOLDBERG,
New York Tuberculosis and Health Association.

NEW YORK, N. Y., *April 30, 1945.*

Hon. ANDREW J. MAY,
Chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee,
House Office Building, Washington, D. C.:

Strongly favor continuation in force of the May Act at least for duration of the war.

GEORGE NELBACH,
Assistant Secretary,
State Charities Aid Association.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, *April 28, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
American Social Hygiene Association,
Washington, D. C.:

Extension of May Act is imperative. Permitting it to expire now would dangerously affect the success of our war effort Urge enactment, H. R. 2992.

ROY E. DICKERSON,
Executive Secretary,
Cincinnati Social Hygiene Society.

CLEVELAND, OHIO, *April 29, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
American Social Hygiene Association,
Washington, D. C.:

Extension of the May Act for the duration of the war is endorsed by the joint social hygiene committee of the Academy of Medicine and the Health Council of Cleveland, Ohio.

ROBERT N. HOYT, *Secretary.*

PORTLAND, OREG., *April 28, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
American Social Hygiene Association,
Washington, D. C.:

Can you tell us the status of Congressman May's bill (H. R. 2992), which would extend the program and services of the May Act? If hearings are being held will you be kind enough to record our earnest petition that this legislation be continued and regarded as essential to all of us engaged in State and local work? Thanks.

SAIDIE ORR DUNBAR,
Oregon Tuberculosis Association.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., *April 28, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
American Social Hygiene Association,
Washington, D. C.:

Strongly urge support of Congressman May's bill, (H. R. 2992), extending May Act which has been so effective during war period.

CHARLES KURTZHALZ,
Director, Philadelphia Tuberculosis
and Health Association.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

PITTSBURGH, PA., *April 30, 1945.*

WILLIAM S. SNOW,
American Social Hygiene Association,
Washington, D. C.:

General Health Council, Allegheny County, supports extension May Act. Control of venereal disease vital factor health and morale.

H. T. PRICE, M. D., *President.*
W. W. MCFARLAND, *Director.*

ERIE, PA., *April 30, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
American Social Hygiene Association,
Washington, D. C.:

May Act has proved to be a strategic reserve force for aiding and supplementing local powers and authority in controlling venereal infections. Erie Social Hygiene Association membership of 130 outstanding citizens firmly convinced the act should be extended through H. R. 2992.

N. W. EDSON.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, *April 30, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
American Social Hygiene Association,
Washington, D. C.:

Utah Social Hygiene Association urges enactment May bill (H. R. 2992), extending May Act. Much benefit has resulted from this legislation.

UTAH SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION,
By ELIAS L. DAY, *Secretary.*

SEATTLE, WASH., *April 28, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
The American Social Hygiene Association,
Washington, D. C.:

Association supports H. R. 2992 and urges extension of May Act for duration. Act a helpful tool in control of commercialized prostitution in local communities.

HONORIA HUGHES,
Executive Secretary, Washington
State Social Hygiene Association.

SEATTLE, WASH., *April 28, 1945.*

Dr. WILLIAM F. SNOW,
The American Social Hygiene Association,
Washington, D. C.:

Association supports H. R. 2992. Urges continuance of May Act during critical war period. Invaluable statute for Nation-wide repression of prostitution.

HONORIA HUGHES,
Executive Secretary, Seattle,
King County, Social Hygiene Association.

(Whereupon, the committee proceeded to the consideration of other business.)

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